
A Letter from several of the Protestant Clergie

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C H E S H I R E ,

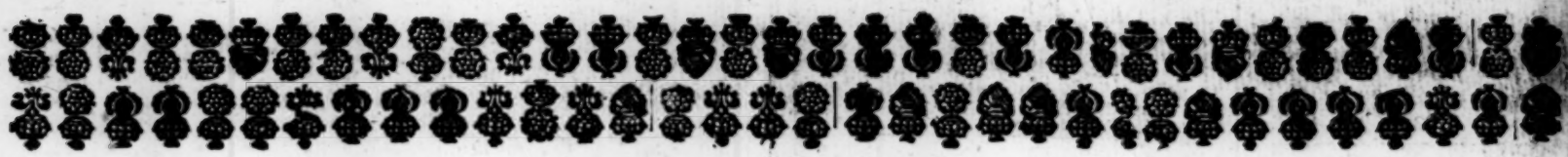
To a Divine in

L O N D O N .

Right Reverend Brother,

WE blush when we consider how we are out-done, both in the actings and writings of the Laity of our Country; and withall when we consider how we have been scandalled by some people of this Nation, in esteeming us the onely Incendiaries of the late War in *England*. Truly we believe there were some Hot-spurs amongst the rest of our Function, who out of too much indiscreet zeal, might put a prejudice upon the whole Clergy, yet they taken in a right square sense, would appear to the Judicious and understanding, good and upright. But now admitting either, we have a greater work to do, that is, to clear our selves of the one, and make good the other with our Christian Militia. VVe look upon this our undertaking here, little inferior to that of the Holy VVar, for we are as great Champions of Christ in rooting out Heresie as Heathenism. Our hearts tend, and our bowels yern to hear that the reigning power among you have put a strength and power into their hands, that dare fight against none but Christ and his Church; that Quakers and Anabaptists should not onely be countenanced and connived at, but encouraged in their undertakings. VVe believe none of you are ignorant of what damnable bloody temper their spirits are when once heightened with a sense and knowledge of their own strength. VVe have heard of a pledge of their love a Quaker gave to a Divine in *Somersetshire*. Reverend, VVe shall not trouble you with Arguments to induce you, nor the rest of our Reverend Brethren, because we hope, as you cannot but be sensible how far the Almighty hath permitted Sathan in the advancing his own Kingdom amongst us, so you will assist and relieve us and your selves, both in your Pulpits and Closets. VVe do resolve to sacrifice the last and pretiouslest drop of our blood in this our Countries undertaking; And we do likewise conjure you all, by that promise you made at the reception of Holy Orders (not to deny Christ before men) to Preach the same. VVe need not tell you, we are all not onely obliged not to speak nor act against Christ and Holy Church, but especially to Preach it and act for it, nay in the face of the most eminent danger.

We do beseech you, as you will answer it before God, as you tender the Welfare of Church and Country, not to lose a minutes opportunity of preaching the peoples Duty to them in this regard. If a Heathen thought it *dulce et nobile pro patria mori*, it is *ter nobile & dulcissimum pro Ecclesia perire*. If we have begun the redemption of our Country, let it be your business to compleat it. The world will attribute the glory to you, if you'll but in this exigency of time crown this glorious work. That whereas the Church composed Common Prayers for its Country, they will now do it for us. VVe have here exprest to you the very sense of our Souls, and by the assistance of God what we do, and with the hazard of our lives and fortunes will preach and publish, as the great concern of all mankind in this Nation, that dare own the name of Christ. Let not those illiterate and phanatick opiniators, as Anabaptists and Quakers, triumph over us. For believe it, they will (if Conquerors) make us all Quake, and rebaptise us in our own blood. Once again you have your dear and tender Mother the Church lying a bleeding, implores your ayd; Let her not perish under Tyranny and Persecution, when it is in our power to retrieve her. In this work we gain a farr greater glory and reward than that Bishop who redeemed *Naples* from the Usurpation of *Masiniello*. This is all, beseeching you for Gods sake, for his Churches sake, not to forget your daily Duty, your hourly, nay to make it your street-Office, to let your flock know how much their Lives, Fortunes, and Religion is concerned, in not trusting a sword in such madmens hands, but unanimously to disarm them, and thereby redeem your Church and State from an insupportable Slavery.



A Letter from several of the Protestant Clergie in

Cheshire, to a Divine in London. *August 22th 1659*

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